(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to remove certain stretches of the rail network under the Palakkad railway division to be attached to the proposed new Salem division; and

(b) if so, the present length of rail network under the Palakkad division and the length of the rail route proposed to be removed from this division and what is minimum length of route specified for a division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Present length of rail network under the Palakkad division is 1132 Kilometres. The length of the rail route proposed to be removed from the Palakkad division is 623 Kilometres. There is no specified minimum length of route for a Division.

Travelling without tickets

†532. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ministers and Members of Parliament whose family members and relatives hae been caught without ticket while travelling during the last three months;

(b) the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) the details of action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Some incidents of travelling without ticket/irregular travel by family members and relatives of Ministers and Members of Parliament have come to notice. Such cases are dealt with as per extant provisions of Railways Act, 1989. However, no separate statistics is maintained in this regard.

Research and Development activities in Railways

533. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research and Development activities in Railways are being

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

geared up to meet the challenges ahead relating to track safety, passengers' coaches being made which could withstand the impact of major accidents and extraction of passengers more quick and less painful, speed of rolling stock, especially passengers, coming to the level of advanced countries, etc;

(b) if so, how much funds were allocated towards 'R&D' during the last three years, and whether these were all utilized; and

(c) the percentage of allocation of funds towards 'R&D' out of the annual revenues of the Railways and whether it is being increased from the financial year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), the premier research and development Organisation of Indian Railways, has taken up a number of projects relating to Railway safety and speed of rolling stock especially passengers. The Indian Railways are adopting the advanced technology to match with those of other countries, as and when required, to suit the requirement and the need.

(b) and (c) The allotment and expenditure on the Research & Development projects and the related establishment during the last three years is as under:—

(Figures in Crores of Rs.)

Year	Allotment (B.E.)	Actual Expenditure	Percentage of Revenues spent on Research and Development
2004-05	79.00	70.85	0.15%
2005-06	106.39	66.53	0.12%
2006-07	130.80	107.74(RE)	0.17%*
2007-08 (Proposed)	131.60	—	0.18%**

*Actual expenditure not yet worked out. Percentage expenditure is with respect to Revised Estimates 2006-07.

**Proposed allocation as %age of Revenues during 2007-08.